



Mary Agnes Mahoney SL
March 18, 1928 — July 30, 2008

In her 1976 autobiography, Mary Agnes wrote: "...from my youth, one of my keenest memories concerns the birth of my little sister. I was a sophomore at Loretto High School in Louisville. After five brothers, it was sheer joy to have a baby sister! It was terrible to leave her and go to the Novitiate. In fact, it was very difficult to leave the boys also."

After high school Mary Agnes entered the Loretto novitiate. She received the habit and her new name, Sister Mary Jonathan on April 25, 1947.

From Marlene Spero — "Mary Agnes has been known by God and us in many different ways and by many different names As **Skeet**, a nickname given early in her life by her father who claimed 'she was about as big as a mosquito,' she was sister, aunt, cousin, classmate and friend. Family was always important in her life and as the oldest of seven children Skeet was the natural matriarch of the Mahoney clan. She loved every privilege granted her in this stately position. Most of all she felt blessed to experience such deep family love and to share in the family joys and sorrows.

As **Jonathan**, she was music educator, choral director, student and friend.

as **Mama Mahoney** (the name she sometimes gave herself), she was confidante and mentor.

as **Mary Agnes** she was activity director, hospital volunteer, scripture student, member of Project Women and the Loretto Co-membership team.

From Martha Alderson — “Skeet was an exceptionally conscientious member of the Co-membership Team, always prepared and always enthusiastic about the in-process people. She made a special effort to meet each one, regardless of whether she was the team liaison. She often remarked that co-membership is one of the great hopeful signs for the future of the community. Another unforgettable trait was her mischievous sense of humor which was always refreshing! “

Mary Agnes taught in a variety of Loretto schools before going to Trinity High School in Louisville. In reference to her fifteen years at Trinity Mary Agnes wrote. “I could write a veritable tome. My teaching duties were choral music and Music Theory. I found that boys really like to sing. They are fascinated with what they can do with their voices. We traveled and performed many places. I could go on and on and on about the coffin they built for “Poor Jud is Dead”, playing basketball while singing “Sweet Georgia Brown”; finding an old claw footed bathtub for “Splish Splash, I Was Taking a Bath”; rooting out an old yellow fender for “Used Car Lot”; relishing the music of “Phantom of the Opera” and Handel’s “Halleluiah Chorus.” However, the truly moving renditions were the chant and sacred music sung at Baccalaureate, weddings and anniversaries.”

In 1990, Mary Agnes applied for and was appointed Director of Activities at the Loretto Motherhouse Infirmary. “I absolutely thrived in the work with the elderly at Loretto. I felt so wanted and needed. I would like to have continued for a long time, but in September 1993, I knew I should leave. Stress and arthritis were keeping me from doing the job as I felt it should be done. Since September 1993, I have volunteered one day a week at the infirmary. I also do this to keep the relationships that had been started as these mean a lot to me.”

Marlene — “She was lover of life, nature and her God, one who loved visiting with people but also treasured quiet time for reflection – one who enjoyed good music, reading, traveling, learning new things, good food, all things Irish...

“In recent months Mary Agnes was a model of how to endure pain and suffering with dignity and grace. Her own written reflections about God tell us that she drew strength in knowing that because Jesus’ life was so difficult, God would be with her in hard times. She believed that responses throughout life to the little things prepared one for receiving the Spirit and knowing how to handle the bigger challenges.

“We might imagine Mary Agnes enjoying the presence of her God in company with her Mother and Father, brothers Paul and Norb and good friend Betty Riggs along with countless other relatives, Loretto community members and friends.

While we will miss her physical presence, we rejoice that our treasured friend is now experiencing eternal life with her God. We are grateful to God for her buoyant spirit and the fond memories of our times together - memories that will keep her always alive in our hearts.

Go forth to paradise...May angels lead you by the hand...”